



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Twelfth Day of February, 2020

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

2. Hon. Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, Hon. Alvick Maharaj, Hon. Inosi Kuridrani and Hon. Mosese Bulitavu.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Inia Seruiratu, moved that the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Thursday, 11 February 2021 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting and all those watching the live broadcast and the live streaming of the proceedings.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that Hon. Virendra Lal has been appointed as a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and also a substitute member for the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights.

Hon. Speaker offered best wishes to the Hon. Alexander O'Connor on his birthday.

6. QUESTIONS

- 39/2021 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Accountability and Transparency Commission given that there is budgetary provisions for its establishment each year.
- 40/2021 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of the Government Shipping Franchise Scheme.
- 41/2021 Hon. Ratu Tevita Navurelevu asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament whether a Job Evaluation Exercise (JEE) will be undertaken for the Fiji Corrections Service given that the last JEE was undertaken in 2003 by Mercer Human Resource Consultancy (Mercer), NZ through the Public Service Commission.
- 42/2021 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the Youth Initiative Farming Programme.
- 43/2021 Hon. Mikaele Leawere asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of payment of Fiji’s obligatory contribution (Grant) to USP.
- 44/2021 Hon. Alexander O’Connor asked the Minister for Forestry – Given that Fiji is now a member of the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR), can the Minister advise Parliament on what this means for the Ministry, industry and country.
- 45/2021 Hon. Anare Jale asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament if there is any reconsideration for the Provincial Council to appoint respective Chairpersons.
- 46/2021 Hon. Virendra Lal to ask the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on any development with respect to the teaching of Mathematics Life Skills in schools.

Written Question

47/2021 Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry’s programme to rehabilitate and maintain roads and bridges damaged by Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana.

Responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 46/2021 was withdrawn by the Hon. Virendra Lal.

Response to Written Question 47/2021 would be tabled at a later sitting date by the respective Minister, as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

7. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

(a) The Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua delivered her End of Week Statement and the Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete subsequently responded.

(b) The Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi delivered her End of Week Statement and the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management the Hon. Inia Seruiratu subsequently responded.

8. CLARIFICATION BY THE HON. ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Hon. Speaker allowed the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum to provide clarification on an earlier response.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Inia Seruiratu moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Monday, 22 March 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members and declared Parliament adjourned until Monday, 22 March 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 12.16 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

12th February, 2021.